

BEFORE  
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF  
SOUTH CAROLINA  
DOCKET NO. 2004-357-W/S - ORDER NO. 2005-101  
MARCH 2, 2005

IN RE:	Application of Carolina Water Service, Inc.	)	ORDER GRANTING
	for Adjustment of Rates and Charges and	)	NIGHT HEARINGS
	Modification of Certain Terms and	)	
	Conditions for the Provision of Water and	)	
	Sewer Service.	)	

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (“Commission”) on the request of the Office of Regulatory Staff of South Carolina (“ORS”) for night hearings to be scheduled in the present docket. On December 17, 2004, Carolina Water Service, Inc. (“CWS” or the “Applicant”) filed an Application requesting approval of an increase in rates and charges and modification of certain terms and conditions for water and sewer service provided to CWS’s customers in certain areas of South Carolina.

Following public notice of CWS’s Application, a request was filed by the ORS on February 11, 2005, asking the Commission to schedule a night hearing with respect to CWS’s Application at a location in Dorchester County, South Carolina. The Commission granted this request and accordingly issued Order No. 2005-92, dated February 24, 2005. The request presently before the Commission comes as a supplement to the ORS’s prior request for a night hearing in Dorchester County. The ORS, by correspondence filed

February 23, 2005, seeks the Commission's approval for additional night hearings to be held in regard to CWS's Application. Specifically, the ORS requests that a night hearing be scheduled at a location in the Midlands area and at a location in York County, South Carolina.

According to the ORS, its Staff has received significant interest from ratepayers in the Midlands area and York County pertaining to the instant docket. The ORS states that the night hearings will afford the public an opportunity to express any concerns or comments on CWS's pending Application for an increase in rates and charges.

Upon consideration of the request of the ORS, the Commission finds that night hearings in this docket should be scheduled and held in the Midlands area and in York County, South Carolina. The night hearings will allow interested customers of CWS to appear and present testimony and evidence relevant to CWS's Application. The night hearings shall be scheduled in addition to the public hearing scheduled in this matter for Wednesday, May 4, 2005, to be held at 10:30 a.m. in the Commission's hearing room, Synergy Business Park, 101 Executive Center Drive, Columbia, South Carolina. The night hearings are being scheduled to provide a local forum for customers of CWS and other interested persons not already parties to the proceeding. Parties of record in this docket who have filed Petitions to Intervene and who seek to cross-examine witnesses of CWS will present their testimony and exhibits at the public hearing scheduled for May 4, 2005. Further, CWS will present their witnesses and testimony and exhibits at the hearing scheduled to be held before the Commission in Columbia, South Carolina.

Upon consideration of the request for night hearings, the Commission makes the following findings:

#### FINDINGS OF FACT

1. A hearing on the Applicant's request for an adjustment in rates and charges and modification of certain terms and conditions for the provision of water and sewer service is scheduled to be held in the Commission's hearing room located at 101 Executive Center Drive, Columbia, South Carolina on Wednesday, May 4, 2005, at 10:30 a.m.

2. The Applicant serves customers located in the Midlands area of South Carolina and in York County, South Carolina.

3. As evidenced by the ORS regarding the interest of customers in this proceeding, the customers of the Applicant are interested in the proceedings concerning the Applicant's request for an adjustment in rates and charges.

4. Night hearings on the Application to be held in the Midlands area of South Carolina and in York County, South Carolina would provide a convenient forum for the customers of the Applicant to provide evidence related to the Application to the Commission.

Based upon the above Findings of Fact, the Commission concludes as follows:

#### CONCLUSIONS

1. Based upon customer interest in this proceeding, the Commission concludes that significant interest in the instant docket has been exhibited by customers who could be affected by the pending rate case Application.

2. The Commission concludes that night hearings held in the Midlands area of South Carolina and in York County, South Carolina would allow interested customers to appear before the Commission to present evidence concerning the pending rate case Application.

3. The Commission concludes that night hearings in the Midlands area of South Carolina and in York County, South Carolina would serve the public interest as such night hearings would provide the customers affected by the rate Application a convenient forum in terms of location and time to appear before the Commission to present evidence related to the pending rate case Application.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

1. Night hearings in the pending rate case Application filed by Carolina Water Service, Inc. shall be held in the Midlands area of South Carolina and in York County, South Carolina.

2. The Commission Staff is directed to find a suitable location and date for the night hearings and shall provide notice of the night hearings to the parties in this docket and to the customers affected by the Application.

3. This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

/s/  
Randy Mitchell, Chairman

ATTEST:

/s/  
G. O'Neal Hamilton, Vice Chairman

(SEAL)